

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 865

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SUBJ: DANJUMA DEFENDS ARMY PROMOTIONS, STEPS UP CAMPAIGN
AGAINST SECRET SOCIETIES IN MILITARY

SUMMARY: ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF LT. GEN. T. Y. DANJUMA HAS DEFENDED RECENT PROMOTIONS OF 14 SENIOR OFFICERS AS BRINGING NIGERIAN RANK STRUCTURE MORE INTO LINE WITH WHAT HAS COME TO BE STANDARD IN MODERN ARMIES. HE IS ALSO SHOWING INCREASING DETERMINATION FIGHT SECRET SOCIETIES AND CULTS IN NIGERIAN ARMY. END SUMMARY.

1. SPEAKING ON IBADAN TV PROGRAM, "ISSUES OF THE DAY," ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF LT. GEN T. Y. DANJUMA DEFENDED RECENT PROMOTION OF 14 SENIOR OFFICERS AS ENABLING THEM ASSUME RANKS COMMENSURATE WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES. NOTING THAT ALL CORPS AND DIRECTORATES SHOULD BE HEADED BY GENERALS, HE ADDED THAT ARMY HAS VACANCIES FOR MORE THAN TWICE AS MANY GENERALS AS HAVE BEEN APPOINTED. FOR TOO LONG, HE SAID, ARMY HAS BEEN "ARMY WITHOUT GENERASS" AND IT WAS

TIME OFFICERS STOPPED BEING SHY TO ASSUME SUPERIOR RANKS. NO ONE COMPLAINED, HE SAID, WHENEVER A PROFESSOR IS MADE A UNIVERSITY VICE-CHANCELLOR OR A SENIOR OFFICIAL IS NAMED A PERMANENT SECRETARY. HE HINTED NEW PROMOTIONS IN PIPELINE.

2. DANJUMA, IN IBADAN FOR NIGERIAN ARMY SENIOR OFFICERS' TRAINING WEEK, (SEE LAGOS 779) STEPPING UP CAMPAIGN AGAINST SECRET SOCIETIES
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IN MILITARY. HE ANNOUNCED AT OPENING SESSION OF CONFERENCE THAT

PERSONNEL BELONGING TO SECRET SOCIETIES AND CULTS WILL HENCEFORTH FACE COMPULSORY DISCHARGE FROM ARMY. HE CHARGED THAT THEY UNDERMINE DISCIPLINE SINCE THEIR HIERARCHICAL ORGANIZATION CONFLICTS WITH THE ARMY'S OWN HIERARCHY, THAT THEY ARE PROTECTION RACKET FOR AVOIDING AND NEUTRALIZING JUSTICE, THAT THOSE WHO JOIN THEM EITHER LACK CONFIDENCE IN THEMSELVES OR ARE CRIMIOALLY INCLINED.

3. COMMENT: DANJUMA'S DEFENSE OF PROMOTIONS WHICH CAN BE VIEWED AS OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF CRITICISM OF THE ACTION, FOLLOWED LINE (ALREADY NOTED IN REFTEL) THAT PROMOTIONS ESSENTIALLY PART OF ARMY REORGANIZATION, INTENDED INCREASE EFFICIENCY OF ARMY. ACCORDING TO DATT DANJUMA INTENDS INTRODUCE COMMAND AND STAFF STRUCTURE VERY SIMILAR TO THAT OF U.S. ARMY, INCLUDING DIVISIONS WITH ONE OR TWO BRIGADIER ASSISTANT DIVISION COMMANDERS, COLONELS AS BRIGADE COMMANDERS. ARMY HEADQUARTERS WOULD BECOME MORE CLEARLY DIFFERENTIATED FROM MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, AND HEADS OF GENERAL STAFF DEPARTMENTS AS WELL AS HEADS OF SPECIALIZED COMPONENTS LIKE MILITARY POLICE WOULD ALL HOLD GENERAL OFFICER RANK.

4. ACCORDING TO DATT SECRET SOCIETIES MUCH ON DANJUMA'S MIND. THOUGH JUJU CULTS OBVIOUSLY ONE CONCERN, OTHER SOCIETIES SUCH AS MASONS ALSO COME IN FOR HIS DISPLEASURE. DANJUMA IS COMPLETELY DEDICATED TO ELIMINATING SECRET SOCIETIES IN ALL FORMS, INCLUDING PRESUOABLY INNOCUOUS ONES. HIS CONCERNS FOCUS CHIEFLY ON ARMY BUT EXTEND TO SOME DEGREE INTO ALL WALKS OF NIGERIAN LIFE. POSSIBLE THAT CULTS' POTENTIAL AS CENTERS FOR ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY FIGURES IN DANJUMA'S PRESENT PREOCCUPATION.
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